

Note to Myself

explain, please,  
your preference  
for pink,  
when lavender  
makes dressmakers  
glad,  
and mustard  
rules  
at Bonwit's

Pretty Poem

(German poems  
under Hitler  
were mostly  
about flowers)

sticks and  
birds  
in a border  
of marigold  
birds  
and gold  
flowers

Choice

two ashcans,  
like "Endgame"/  
one must  
be chosen  
in which  
to throw  
a candy  
wrapper

a circle of  
poems, by  
gloria kenison

Tumbledown Dick  
an early  
N.H. coward  
named Dick  
died suddenly,  
after being  
chased  
over a cliff  
by Indians

a thousand  
packages  
wrapped  
by fingers  
like machines/  
white flash-  
market paper  
and brick-  
red cord

Packages



To an Ancient Architect

a carriage  
stops  
before  
a spiral  
staircase  
held on air

The Sunflower

has yellow  
petals  
around a  
center  
of tightly  
packed  
brown seeds/  
perhaps  
the meter-man  
will see it  
when he goes  
through  
the back yard

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a man waits  
at the bus stop  
with a rolled-up  
newspaper  
under his arm/  
many times  
he has heard  
the weather  
report,  
and now  
it helps him  
to choose his  
going place,  
back,  
and what  
umbrella  
he may lose

Windy, Rain

a homely cat  
thinks of death  
as a dragonfly  
that scared  
him once

Cat Delusion



"Mother" Brook  
Dedham, Mass.

This is the  
kind of  
little river  
the Indians  
considered  
adequate.  
In a low  
part of town,  
the brown water  
flows between  
brown banks,  
choked with  
old tires  
and tin cans

Brave Birds

blue dandy  
birds  
with childish  
crests,  
threaten  
a yellow  
smokestack

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diplomas  
are usually  
kept in attics,  
under the  
flag,  
the bow and arrows  
and summer  
shoes

Diploma

These chic  
pastel benches  
are sat on  
every day  
by unchic people  
admiring views.  
Sometimes,  
at night  
they're stolen  
by semi-chic  
hoodlums  
in broken cars.

Furnishing  
The Outdoors



The Inside

Steam Age

perhaps a corner  
of the window  
lets you look out,  
while others  
are stuffed  
with curtains,  
shades,  
reflections/  
you see,  
but then you  
draw in again,  
to not see  
the inside

artists  
forgot  
the steam age,  
except for  
a painting  
of the  
vast glass  
ceiling  
of a station

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Displaced  
some gulls,  
seven miles  
from the sea,  
study a  
suburban pond  
for signs  
of cod or hake

a pitchman's  
holiday  
next to Green  
Street,  
a ferris wheel  
near the A & P,  
dark trees  
above weak  
lights,  
popcorn  
in pink and  
yellow  
and a  
set piece of  
a waterfall

Carnival in  
Ipswich



Wedding Vase

white glass  
with brown  
flowers  
in the center  
of the mantle/  
thought  
valuable  
since 1880

"Educational"

the museum  
is closed  
on Wed. p.m./  
inside are  
postcards of  
Van Gogh  
sunflowers  
and the  
Minoan Snake  
Goddess,  
which you  
can send to  
friends

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a family  
who were poor  
or rich  
had a  
blue-milk  
kitten,  
which lived  
ten years,  
when people  
were busy  
with something,  
a war, I guess

Pet

Someone stole  
his hubcaps,  
He painted the  
wheels red and  
green.

They Got Away



Guessing What "Bistro"  
Means

"Continued"

some desirable  
little saloons  
with brown  
walls,  
lithographs,  
and Hemingway  
sitting around

this episode  
of ancient days  
shows  
the Emperor  
Galba  
calling for  
hot water  
to soak  
his feet in

Biography: Gloria Kenison

I'm a graduate of Katharine Gibbs and worked on State Street  
(Boston) for twenty years.

Publications:

Ms. (1932 or '3); which was published by Columbia University for  
its correspondence school students. I appeared in it twice.

Story (March, 1935): story (accepted by Whit Burnett).

Serendipity (1962, I think): story accepted, but never published  
because the magazine was discontinued. They also would have  
taken two of my poems.

The Wormwood Review: (1963, onwards): poems.

black-and-white  
sheet music  
in a storage  
warehouse/  
a waltz of  
sentiment  
about  
sycamores,  
candles,  
and a river

someone  
shot a fox  
this morning,  
and put  
his orange  
corpse  
in the  
back window  
of his car

"Wabash"

Killed for the Bounty



## Chapter Heading

## Institution

"a cruel mousetrap  
is turned  
upside down,  
and Mrs. Thing  
goes to  
a tea"

down there  
beyond the  
hospital grounds,  
rabbits play  
in a Constable  
landscape

Publications (continued):

Spectrum (Fall, 1964): poem.

The Green World: three poems in two issues.

Experiment (1962 or '3): 11 poems accepted, also three verse plays (one-minute plays).

Umbra: poem accepted, 1965.

I have also had numerous poems in the Young Publication anthologies, the Boston Herald and Hartford Courant.

give a pal  
a boost/  
buy his  
shiny knives  
("hard-wood case")

"Stanley" Party

just as  
you open  
a bottle  
of Drambuie,  
the postman  
comes  
with a  
"late" birthday  
card

Civilization



## Colors

an orange cat  
steps on the  
green grass  
from the  
kitchen door  
to the edge  
of the yard,  
where it dives  
into unmowed  
beige weeds  
and hunts  
gray fieldmice  
whose silk hair  
is blown  
by the colorless wind

## Lineage

a diffident  
spider  
had his lineage  
traced back  
through  
a hundred  
centuries  
to find out  
why he feared  
nothing but  
flowers

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Western lawmen  
come and go,  
but there's  
always a scene  
with sage-brush  
in it  
in every  
cowboy movie

"High Noon"

the city is  
like a wheel/  
on the rim  
are a few  
people  
bound for  
dentists'  
offices/  
the spokes  
are avenues  
for jewel shops/  
the hub  
is a crowd  
swayed by a  
policeman's  
whistle

City Stumble



Girls' Books (1900)

all about  
Little Prudie,  
Phronsie Pepper,  
and  
Flaxie Frizzle

Ads:1

"Pleasant Walks  
Near Camp"

a mile or so  
from the  
ancient  
cabins,  
are fields  
of sweet fern  
and wild  
raspberries

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birds are making  
little  
cutting noises  
between  
the wires  
in  
a  
dry field

Bird Noises

In September  
the milliner  
trims her  
elgthteen-dollar  
hats,  
grand shapes  
in emerald,  
royal,  
or rust,  
and sticks  
them,  
like oak balls  
on pegs that  
come out  
from the wall

Hat Shop



Ads:2  
"Five Minutes  
to the Beach"

small white  
beach cottages  
with  
blue painted  
porch ceilings,  
and hand-  
made pulls  
on the  
window shades

Franconia's Notch

gaudy stickers  
are glued  
on bumpers,  
or orange  
on black,  
for some caves  
or some zoo  
the kids  
might like

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something  
terrible  
happened  
just now/  
they'll have  
to interrupt  
the Wheaties  
program  
to tell  
about it

Bulletin

root-held  
trees  
along  
street,  
and avenue  
and  
private way

Elms



"Choice of Three Veggies."

"Formal"

a turnip,  
a gourd,  
a cabbage  
so fair  
that people  
stare

pink taffeta  
in the closet  
a stiff shiny  
flower  
on a  
hanger

"Like a ... "

"My Creed"

in poetry  
a simile hangs  
on every  
bush

a parchment  
motto,  
with gilded  
capitals

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candy counter/  
seat/  
between  
them  
theatre air  
and dirty  
carpet

"Second Feature"

Fog  
("pale-  
white,"  
and  
other  
adjectives)

Fog is Bothersome  
Somebody  
Again

a box  
with turquoise  
walls,  
an elegance  
so rare  
that people  
used to  
shabby cubes  
of air  
can't stand it

Room



# History of Pepper

grains of  
(pepper)  
or not  
from  
Madagascar  
(islands  
are  
interesting)

Scuffler  
in Sandals  
bleached hair  
and orange  
jumper

Gloria Kenison

-- Gloria Kenison, 1966

Harding, Mass.

in this place  
they wear  
purple stockings/  
one does,  
anyway/  
the weather  
vane  
has four  
directions/  
the usual  
thing,  
I guess

Letter

"Former Employee"  
used to work  
in a tower  
of Rabel,  
with eccentric  
elevator  
and a  
spooky boss

"Girl of My Dreams"

never mind,  
she'll appear  
some day  
on red spike heels,  
with geranium  
petals  
in her hair  
sixty years old,  
and poor